

## Did you know?

Nearly everyone thinks that water pollution is caused by industry. In the past, most of it was. Today the #1 threat to streams and rivers is from untreated urban storm water runoff. Much of this runoff flows to streams through storm drains and eventually reaches the Ohio River.



## It's the Law?

The Clean Water Act regulated by the WV DEP and the US EPA establishes permit requirements for municipal discharges.



The Huntington VAMC is a designated MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) and is required to have a water discharge (NPDES) permit issued and administered by the WV DEP under the guidelines of the US EPA.

The US EPA requires six minimum control measures to improve storm water quality:

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Participation and Involvement
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Runoff Control
5. Post Construction Storm Water Management
6. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping For Municipal Operations and Maintenance



For more information about the Clean Water Act, MS4, and NPDES— go to [www.wvdep.org](http://www.wvdep.org) or [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov).

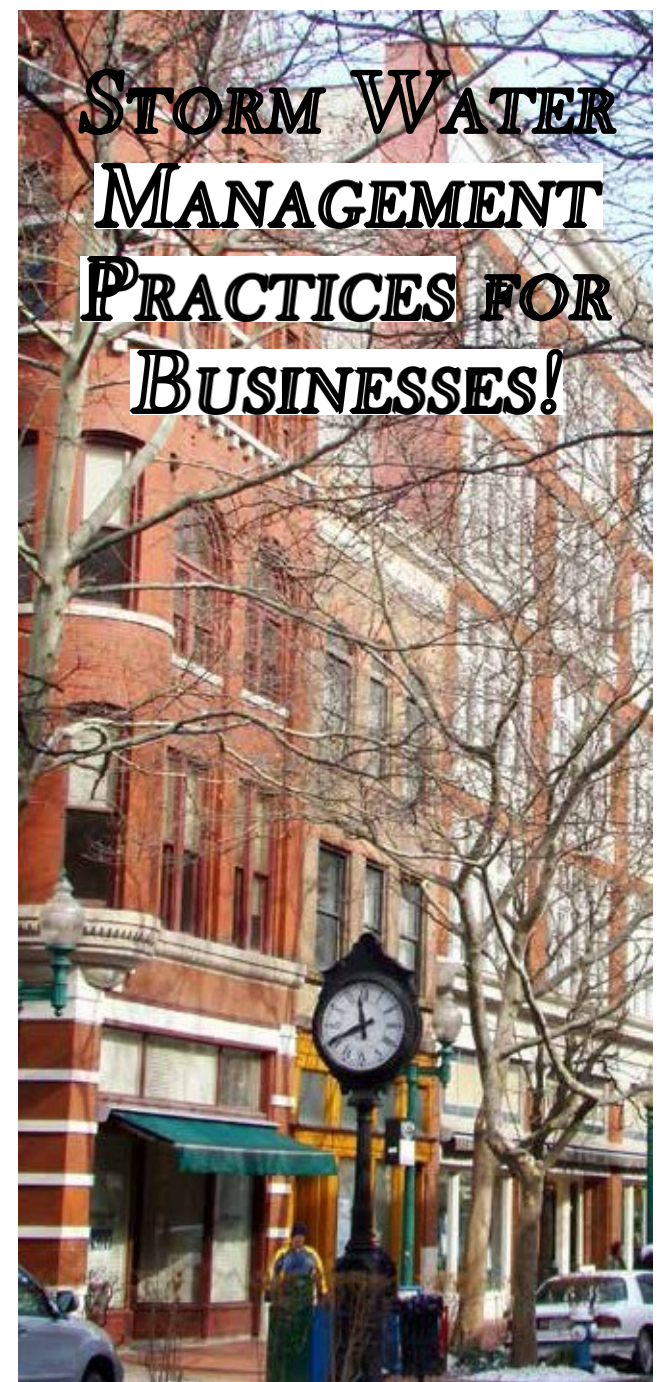


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This Brochure has been distributed to you by the Huntington VAMC in an effort to increase your knowledge of our storm water management program and educational efforts.

# STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR BUSINESSES!





## What is Storm Water?

Storm water is simply precipitation: rain, snow & ice falling from the sky. As water, it flows over various surfaces and creates runoff. Storm water runoff is generally captured in storm drains, eg. street corners, low points along the road or roof drains. The problem is that storm drains are not connected to a sanitary



sewer systems. Storm water runoff, and every-



thing picked up along the way, goes into the nearest stream or river. Pollutants, such as trash, motor oil, sudsy water or pet waste travel, untreated, to the nearest body of water.

## Why Is Storm Water Pollution a Problem?

Storm water pollution can harm fish & other aquatic life, kill native vegetation, destroy aquatic habitats, and make recreational areas unsafe and unpleasant. Furthermore, the nutrients carried by storm water or released into surface waters through decomposition may cause undesirable algae and vegetative growth. Substances carried by storm water that are considered to be pollutants are:

- Sediment, trash & debris
  - Oil, grease, and toxic chemicals
  - Soap and paint products from outdoor maintenance activities
  - Pesticides and fertilizers from lawns and gardens
  - Viruses, bacteria, and nutrients from pet waste and failing septic systems
- Storm drains should be identified and properly marked on your property to prevent accidental spills.



## What Impact Does My Business Have on Storm Water & What Can I do?

### Don't allow wash water to run off premise:

- When you wash windows, sidewalks, floor mats or parking lot, you must discharge the wash water into a pre-approved location.
- Make **sure** outside contractors have proper disposal permits, and use drop-cloths for painting and sandblasting. **DO NOT** let wash water enter the street or storm drains.
- Pour Mop Water into a janitorial or mop sink. Do not pour it onto a parking lot, alley, sidewalk or street.



*Never Pour leftover washwater, oil, floor sweeping or debris into storm drains.*

- **DO NOT DUMP** debris from sweeping or liquid waste onto the ground or into a storm drain. *Even Materials that seem harmless like latex paint, mop water, or biodegradable cleaners can pollute.*
- Locate the storm drains on or near your property. Do not allow material to flow into these drains.

### Properly maintain dumpsters:

- Certain dumpsters require a wash pad and sanitary sewer connection, check your local codes.
- Cover dumpsters to prevent insects, animals and rainwater from getting in.
- Keep the area around the dumpster clear of trash and debris and do not overflow it.
- Make sure the cleanout plug has not been removed.
- Call your trash hauler to replace a leaking dumpster.



### Pick up litter and sweep parking

#### lots and sidewalks:

- Sweep sidewalks and parking lots, **DO NOT** use a water hose to clean.
- Provide and maintain trash containers and cigarette butt collectors in visible locations. Signage may be used to encourage compliance.
- Clean spills with appropriate "dry methods" such as cat litter, sweeping compounds, etc. and dispose of materials appropriately.

### NOTICE

**PLACE CIGARETTES, CIGARS, AND ASHES IN RECEPTACLES**

### Maintaining landscaping, shrubs, and grass:

- **DO NOT** over irrigate grounds. Excess watering of grass and ornamental shrubs not only weakens them and wastes water it also sends landscaping chemicals and nutrients into our storm drains and streams.
- Use a professional landscaping service to periodically test soil and determine the fewest nutrients necessary to maintain a healthy lawn. Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly.



### Training Employees:

- Train all employees upon hiring and annually thereafter on proper methods for handling, storing and disposing of waste. Make sure that all employees understand storm water discharge prohibition and waste water discharge requirements.
- Train employees and contractors in proper spill containment and cleanup. The employee should have the tools at hand to begin cleaning up should a spill occur.
- Train employees to identify and report non-storm water discharges and illegal dumping incidents.
- Post storm water posters in training rooms to aid in education of employees.

